

## BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or	)	
	)	
Revocation of the Educator Certificate	)	CONSENT ORDER OF
	)	
of Brian T. Harris	)	PUBLIC REPRIMAND
	)	
Certificate 171319	)	

### SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 11, 2005. On December 10, 2004, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Brian T. Harris a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of South Carolina educator certificate number 171319 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Harris received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. Mr. Harris requested a hearing, but subsequently agreed to resolve the case without a hearing by accepting the issuance of a public reprimand. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to issue Mr. Harris a public reprimand.

Brian T.  
Harris  
171319

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initial  
Here

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Harris holds a professional South Carolina certificate with over eleven years of teaching experience. For the 2004-05 school year, Mr. Harris was assigned to teach seventh grade mathematics at R. P. Dawkins Middle School in Spartanburg County School District Six. Mr. Harris resigned on November 15, 2004, after allegations that he had violated the District's internet policy, which limits use of the internet to educationally relevant materials, by using the school's

computer to access a bookstore website that sells a variety of books, including those of a sexual nature.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1991). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990). The State Board finds that there is sufficient evidence to support its decision to issue a public reprimand to Mr. Harris.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

May 11, 2005

I, Brian T. Harris, SC Teaching Certificate 171319, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, May 11, 2005.

/S/ Brian T. Harris                      4/27/05  
Brian T. Harris                      Date